

Standard 8-3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the American Civil War—its causes and effects and the major events that occurred during that time.

8-3.5 Compare the military strategies of the North and South with regard to specific events and geographic locations in South Carolina, including the capture of Port Royal, the Union blockade of Charleston, and Sherman’s march through the state. (H, P, G)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

In 3rd grade, students outlined the course of the Civil War and South Carolina’s role in significant events, including the Secession Convention, the firing on Fort Sumter, the Union blockade of Charleston, and Sherman’s march through South Carolina (3-3.4).

In 4th grade, students summarized significant key battles, strategies, and turning points of the Civil War—including the battles of Fort Sumter and Gettysburg, the Emancipation Proclamation, the significance of the Gettysburg Address, and the surrender at Appomattox, and the role of African Americans in the Civil War (4-6.4).

In United States History, students will outline the course and outcome of the Civil War, including the role of African American military units; the impact of the Emancipation Proclamation; and the geographic, political, and economic factors involved in the defeat of the Confederacy (USHC-4.3).

It is essential for students to know:

The **military strategy** of the North was threefold: to blockade Southern ports to cut off supplies from Europe, to break the Confederacy in two at the Mississippi River and to attack the Confederate capital at Richmond. The Southern strategy was to fight a defensive war, using supplies from Europe gained from the sale of cotton, until the Northern forces tired of the war.

Although most of the fighting of the Civil War took place in northern Virginia and along the Mississippi River, there were several specific events that took place at geographic locations in South Carolina. The first shots of the war were fired at Fort Sumter when northern ships attempted to re-supply the federal fort in Charleston Harbor. The first major setback for the Confederate Army was the capture of areas surrounding Port Royal Sound along the coast near Hilton Head by Union troops. These areas remained under Union control throughout the Civil War. The Union strategy was to prevent ships from importing or exporting from South Carolina ports. The Northern blockade was effective in South Carolina despite the efforts of blockade runners and the use of a new technology, the submarine such as the *Hunley*. The blockade was devastating to the South because it kept the Confederate Army from receiving supplies. Union forces laid siege to Charleston attacking from Port Royal and bombarding the city for over a year. During this campaign, the 54th Massachusetts unit of African American soldiers led the charge on Fort Wagner at the mouth of Charleston Harbor. Union General William Sherman marched into South Carolina after his capture of Atlanta and his march-to-the-sea. Sherman’s goal was to make total war, bringing the war home to civilians to convince the South to surrender. This had a direct impact on the civilians in South Carolina, destroying homes, plantations, railroads and towns along the way. The current state house, still under construction, was shelled. Although there is some controversy over who started the fire, the capital city of Columbia burned. Sherman especially wanted to convince South Carolina to surrender since it was the first state to secede from the Union.

It is not essential for students to know:

Although the study of other Civil War battles will help put the actions of South Carolina into perspective, it is not necessary for students to remember Manassas, Antietam, Gettysburg and Vicksburg nor Civil War leaders associated with these battles. Students do not need to know specifics about the *Hunley* or the actions of Robert Smalls. Although it is not mentioned explicitly in this indicator, students may be introduced to the role of African American soldiers in the Civil War by studying the actions of the Massachusetts 54th regiment at Fort Wagner outside of Charleston.

Assessment guidelines:

Appropriate assessments would require students to **compare** the military strategies of the North and South with regard to specific events and geographic locations in South Carolina. . Appropriate assessment should require students to **explain** the significance of the capture of Port Royal, the Union blockade of Charleston, and Sherman's march through the state.